

**REMARKS**

Applicant herein amends independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 17, which depended directly from claim 1 and was indicated as allowable but for its dependence on a rejected base claim. The incorporation of claim 17 into claim 1—with claim 17 correspondingly canceled—places claim 1 and its remaining dependent claims (2-9, 11-16, and 18-23) in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant also amends independent claim 34 to include the limitations of claim 36, which depended directly from claim 34 and was indicated as allowable but for its dependence on a rejected base claim. The incorporation of claim 36 into claim 34—with claim 36 correspondingly canceled—places claim 34 and its remaining dependent claims (35, 37-44) in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant also amends independent claim 45 to include the limitations of claim 47, which depended directly from claim 45 and was indicated as allowable but for its dependence on a rejected base claim. The incorporation of claim 47 into claim 45—with claim 47 correspondingly canceled—places claim 45 and its remaining dependent claims (46, 48-55) in condition for immediate allowance.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-23, 34, 35, 37-46, and 48-55 are pending, with claims 24-33 previously withdrawn. All pending claims now stand in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully looks forward to an indication as such by the Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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